

THE SEEKER FOR MARCH 2015

NEWSLETTER FOR THE CALDWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



I read a story in the latest issue of *Weavings* that struck me: an 86 year old woman with severe arthritis found herself overtaken by wonder. One morning she was sitting at her kitchen table when a sunbeam lit up her crystal saltshaker, setting off a beautiful shower of color and light. The woman mused about how she missed all the other times this must have happened during the fifty years she sat at that same table. And that thought led her to wonder how much else she had failed to notice, preoccupied as she was with getting things done. "This was it, this was grace," she said. "I needed crippled hands before I could sit still. Sometimes you have to be stopped right there in your tracks before you can see that all the beauty in life is right in front of you." (*"Walking with God in a Wired World," by Kathleen Fisher, Weavings, Vol. XXX, No. 2*)

It is a well-timed reminder in this season of Lent to *make time* for stillness and communion with God. And in our full, oftentimes overflowing lives, we can pass by the moments for wonder, renewal, and grace. One practice that is gaining prevalence is centering prayer, which is rooted in contemplative prayer reaching back to the Desert Fathers. Thomas Keating is a Trappist Monk and Priest and is one of the architects of centering prayer. He emphasizes that centering prayer is not so much an exercise in concentrating or focusing our attention on something, but rather it is primarily concerned with *intention*, that is being present to God's presence and action within us. It begins very simply with setting aside 20 minutes in our day. We find a comfortable position, and we open ourselves to God's presence. We choose a sacred word such as *love* or *peace* or *Spirit* that helps focus our thoughts. As our mind inevitably wanders or as interruptions creep in, we return to that sacred word to help us remain in communion with our Creator, basking in God's presence with us, and listening for God's action in us.

The remarkable thing about centering prayer is the way this stillness and peace flow into the active parts of our day and influence how we manage in the busyness and cacophony of life: the decisions we make about when to speak and when to keep silent, what we say, what we do or don't do. Bathed in God's presence, we become more attentive to God's luminous activity right before us in all the simple ordinary moments of every day, like noticing a band of spectacular light beaming from a salt shaker at the breakfast table. Theologian Michael Downey eloquently wrote: "devotional practices are the scaffolding that supports us, especially in our darkest hour." May our devotional practices yield such moments of grace.

O God of the barking dog and chirping bird,
O God of light streaming into this space
Through scattered bits of rainbow glass
Around the cross-hung body of your Son:
Replace our security with risk,
our abundance with sacrifice,
our brokenness with your healing,
that we might start to live
in the joy of your grace. Amen.

By Joel Kurz

Blessings on your Lenten Journey.

Faithfully,

Ali

Preschool News

Hello from the Preschool,

I would like to start by thanking some of the very generous people at Caldwell Church. We came in a couple months ago and found a new microwave in the kitchen. How exciting for us. The old one made me nervous so we rarely used it. This new one has been such a blessing to us. Thank you for meeting our needs in such a loving and practical way!

Also, thank you to the family who made a VERY GENEROUS contribution to our preschool since we aren't able to have our annual Duffy fundraiser. What an act of kindness and love for all that is happening here at the preschool. We are astounded at your kindness. It gives us courage to keep doing the work and helping the families of this community.

I would like to encourage all reading this to save the date of June 13th. We are having a Carnival here for the preschool. What a great time to meet the families of the community and to introduce ourselves to those who may have little ones. We would love to have you come and volunteer at this fun-filled event! It is going to be a great time for the church family to extend their love to our preschool families and also those who may come in the future.

Thanks for serving with us, it is a joy to have the opportunity to serve with you.

Christine Sallstrom



Bring Your Discarded Paper!

Please Keep Recycling Your Paper

Green Fiber has sent us a check for \$84.70 for the months of Oct., Nov., and Dec.

Your effort to recycle paper is great for the church and the environment!

Fellowship and Hospitality

Committee Members: Emilia Bernd, Helene Horn, Ann Kohland, Tom Jenne, Joni Steiner, Sue Moore and Jessica King (chairperson).

The Fellowship and Hospitality Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am in the middle room at Caldwell Church. We encourage anyone who would like to be a part of this committee to join us. Perhaps you would just like to help at some of the events we sponsor. If that is your choice please contact one of our committee members.



Our committee arranges for Coffee hour hosts. Please check the bulletin board in the coffee room to see when your name appears. If you find the date you have been assigned is not good for you, we ask that you find someone to take your place. It is possible to just switch dates with someone else who is listed with their permission. **PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHANGE ON THE CHART AND NOTIFY TOM JENNE OF YOUR ACTION.** (Tom's-cell-#716-870-0013).

We celebrate the first Sunday of each month as Birthday Sunday for all people who have birthdays in the current month. A cake is provided which will be found in the refrigerator in the church kitchen. You may choose to serve just cake and coffee or if you prefer you may add other snacks as you see fit. There is a list of instructions to follow on the cupboard door near the sink describing how to make the coffee etc. Our Church has a history of being warm and friendly. If anyone in the congregation has visitors sitting in a pew near them we ask that you reach out and encourage them to come to the coffee hour and share in the fellowship and hospitality

Coffee Hour Hosts:

March

- 1 Earl Family**
- 7 Cornelius Family**
- 15 Fuller Family**
- 22 Hunsicker Family**
- 29 David King Family**

April

- 5 Ann Kohland & Joni Steiner**
- 12 Mark Mannix Family**
- 19 Blanco Family**
- 26 Earl Family**

Please note that the **Seeker March Deadline** for submitting articles is

March 24th!

Kids Corner

Sunday school classes are in full swing: Our teachers this 6 week block are:

Dana Power: pre-K – 3rd grade

Judy Gilford: 4th & 5th grade

Tom Jenne: 6th-8th grade.

Subs: If you are interested in being a sub teacher please contact Dana, Judy or Laura.

We encourage all kids to come and bring a friend!! The way to shine the light of God in our Community is to bring them in to hear the teachings of his word.

Brownie Party with Pastor Ali is this Sunday, March 1st!

Our new pastor is excited to get to know all the children of our church. We are having a “get to know Ali brownie party” right after Church for all children. Ali has voiced her excitement in getting the children more involved in our adult services. She really wants them to feel this is their church home. Helping them understand the reasons we do what we do in our services. Getting them more involved will give them a since that they have a voice here at Caldwell. We are looking forward in working with Ali to get them more involved with worship.

Clean Water Mission:

Our children are donating money towards a clean water project. Thank you to all who have been contributing towards this wonderful cause. Our goal is \$500.00, and we are more than half way there!

Memory Verses:

The Sunday School teachers are going to start teaching the children memory verses. During lent, we are going to work on learning the 23 Psalm.

Palm Sunday:

We will be taking the children to Westmount Nursing Facility following the children’s message to visit and distribute palms to the residents. Permission slips will be sent home with your child soon.

Bible School: Please mark your calendars that Bible School will be held from Aug. 10th to the 14th. Volunteers are needed.

God Bless

CE Elders

Judy Guilford, Dana Power, Laura Corriveau



Lenton Bible Study

Please join in a midweek gathering on Wednesdays 12:30-2 PM throughout Lent for worship, lunch and book study on Will Willimon's book, "Sinning Like A Christian: A New Look at the Seven Deadly Sins". Soup , beverage and cookies will be provided. Bring your own sandwich if you wish. This is an ecumenical gathering and leadership will be shared by the various churches.

All are welcome.



Mark Your Calendars!

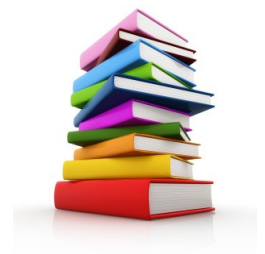
Please come see **“Guys and Dolls”** the musical being put on by the Warrensburg Central School on March 26, 27, and 28th at 7:00.

This a romantic, musical comedy involving a high rolling gambler, a puritanical missionary, a showgirl, and other such characters. This story is based on short stories written by Damon Runyon in the 1920's and 1930's. Jim Corriveau is the high school musical director. Ticket prices are \$6.00 for students, \$8.00 for adults.

Please call the high school office at #623-2861 to reserve your tickets!

Free Books and other items available in the middle Coffee Room.

We are cleaning out the Youth Sunday School Room. We have put several items on the table in the middle room of the church. Please take a look and see if there is anything you would like to take and add to your collection at home.



Save The Date of March 8th !

**Pastor Ali Trowbridge's Installation Service will be
Sunday March 8th at 2:00.**

**All are invited to attend this exciting moment
for our pastor and our church.**

DEACON'S CORNER

We're all looking forward to springtime! March has us planning for Easter Meal Baskets for families who come to our food pantry and our community at large.

If you know of anyone who might use a holiday meal basket please contact Margy Mannix at 668-3118.

Also, with the longer days and thoughts of spring cleaning be sure to start putting items aside for the Annual Spring Rummage Sale coming in May.

There are soup and meal containers in the freezer.
Share with any of the Deacon's if you know someone we could provide some comfort food for.

Margy Mannix, Patti Brozyna, Lynda Glenn, Bob Gunther,
Tom Jenne, Tim McCann

Free Tax Return Preparation

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) sponsored by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Warren County is offering free tax help to families and individuals whose household income is below \$53,000. Trained community volunteers can help you with special credits, such as Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), up to \$6,143, if you earn less than \$52,427. In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, free electronic filing (e-filing) will be offered. Individuals taking advantage of the e-file program will receive their refunds in half the time compared to returns filed on paper – even faster if you have your refund deposited directly into your bank account. Tax Returns with stock sales, business or rental income cannot be completed by us. To schedule a tax appointment in Warren County call Cornell Cooperative Extension at 518-623-3291, for Washington County call 1-800-211-5128, for Pearl Street, Glens Falls and SUNY Adirondack call 211.

March 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Communion	2	3 Fellowship & Hospitality Mtg. 10:30	4	5 Choir	6	7
8	9	10 Supervisory Mtg. 12:30	11 Mission Committee 2:00 Deacon Mtg. 6:30	12 Choir	13	14
15	16	17 Session Mtg. 7	18	19 Choir	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 No Choir	27	28
29	30	31				

Pastor Ali would like to know everyone's month and date of birth. You do not have to give her the year. You can place a slip in the offering plate, her mailbox, or email it to secretary@caldwellpres.org.

Happy Birthday

Barbara O'Reilly

Leah Jenne

Dave Madden

Linda Nicols

Jeffrey Brozyna

Mary Harbourne

Jim Corriveau

Melanie Quigan

John Kohland

Pat Carpenter

Lauren Azer

Melissa Pagnotta



PRAYER CONCERNS

Jenne Family, Bunalski Family, Kellie Moody, Lauren Azer, Karen Azer, Charlie Fuller, the Green Family, John Kohland, Pamela Parrott, Alex Blanco, Carl Desantis, Carol Longman, Nancy Munro, Jill Greene, Andy & Melissa, Skyler Castro, Amy Austin, Mitch Monroe, Pat's brother Dean., Caryl Clark, Kassandra Okasky, Susan Moore, Linda Young, Christine Nicols, Nicky Nall, Sydney Smith, Sue Rummel, Janet Murphy, Deloris Reese, Joan Potts, Scott Fowler, Pastor Shawn Zanicky, Glen Gabriel, Mimi Reid, Ted Brothers, Howard Nicols, Ree Humphrey, Linda McMahon Carr, Tom Parsons.

Out-of-Towners

Arkansas: Nanette Bushey

Florida: Beth Gailey, Anna Fox

Georgia: John Logan

Germany: Heinz-Juergen Hohmeier

Haiti: James Obarowski

Illinois: Wendy Raphael,
Linda Muehling

Maryland: Tanya & Kurt Peltz

New Jersey: Neva & Victor Strom,

New York: Jackie Mackey, Ken Austin
Esme Savoie

Ohio: Mary Lou Peterson

Pennsylvania: Ron Madeira

Texas: John & Theresa Lisenbe,

West Virginia: Sharon Frohnapfel

**Our men and women serving in the
military**

**Our Nation and our leaders
in government**

Our missionaries

**Persecuted Christians around the
world**

Recently Deceased:

Harry Horn

George Green Jr.

Jim Morris

Jean Morris

David Malcolm

Jean Dansen



Hospital, Nursing & Retirement Homes and At Home

Indian River Nursing Home – Pat Eaglestone

Westmount Health Facility– Mary Harbourne

At Home — Clyde Gazlay

Fort Hudson— Betty Cole, Charles Sandora

MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH-KIVA

“What if I told you that we provide 0% interest loans for you to grow your business?” was usually the most controversial question during my speaking engagements.

“What’s the catch?” usually followed up my statement. “There is no catch, we are just trying to really outreach to entrepreneurs that need small loans and don’t have access to credit, we trust you will appreciate this loan and repay it back”. Silence filled the room while I continued to explain...

(Read more at <http://fellowsblog.kiva.org>)

Kiva Microfunds (commonly known by its domain name, Kiva.org) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that allows people to lend money via the Internet to low-income / underserved entrepreneurs and students in over 70 countries. Kiva's mission is “to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty.” Kiva works with microfinance institutions on five continents to provide loans to people without access to traditional banking systems. They work with:

290 Field Partners

450 volunteers around the world

85 different countries

Since Kiva was founded in 2005:

1,249,750 Kiva lenders

\$657,137,825 in loans

98.79% repayment rate

100% of every dollar you lend on Kiva goes directly towards funding loans; Kiva does not take a cut. Furthermore, Kiva does not charge interest to our Field Partners, who administer the loans. Kiva is primarily funded through the support of lenders making optional donations. We also raise funds through grants, corporate sponsors, and foundations.

Here's how it works: You can read through hundreds of borrower stories of people looking for loans to grow businesses, go to school, switch to clean energy and more. Find someone who connects with you. Click 'Lend' to make a loan to the borrower of your choice. **The loan is then disbursed by our Field Partners who vet and work closely with each borrower.** When borrowers repay, you can use that money to empower another person by supporting a new loan! You can also choose to donate the money to Kiva or withdraw it.

The Charity navigator score for KIVA is as follows:

Overall 98.76

Financial 98.26

Accountability & Transparency 100.00

The Caldwell Mission Committee thanks you for your generous donations to the March Mission of the Month.

Haiti Mission School News for March 2015

The Board of the “*Friends of the Siloam School at Labastille*” otherwise (AKA Haiti Mission School) met on Saturday Feb. 7. One of the major issues concerned advanced education for our teachers. Currently the Director and one of the remaining five teachers have college degrees. Three of the others are attending night school and working on their teaching degrees. The Board discussed whether we should require our teachers to be credentialed, and if so should we assist them. It was determined rather than requiring it, we should offer to pay half of their tuition of \$250/year. We also decided we should give a \$50 merit increase in pay for teachers with a degree.

It was also agreed we would pay for a three-day seminar for teachers prior to the beginning of the 2015-16 school year, negotiate a salary increase for the coming year, and continue offering scholarships for secondary school for another 6 students. We are able to do all these things thanks to increased donations over the past year. We intend to address them when we go to Haiti at the beginning of March.

The Jèrèmie Committee called for a general meeting on Saturday January 9 with the teachers, the Labastille Church leaders, the two women who cook and the Director of the school. The teachers had asked for the meeting to deal with some concerns they had with the director. The meeting lasted six hours and we have heard it was quite positive. Apparently there were many smiles at the end of the meeting. This is the first time the Committee at Jèrèmie has assumed the leadership in this way and it was pleasing to our Board here. The Haitians have often tended to wait for us to take the lead, while we remind them that they are our representatives there. It all seems to be a part of two cultures attempting to work together. While in Haiti in March, we intend to encourage them to keep up this good work. Our hope continues to be they will manage the school, while we provide general guidance and continue to work with them on funding issues.

The March trip alluded to above is our annual business trip when we take pictures of all the students, meet with the teachers, the food manager, the Jèrèmie and Labastille committees and negotiate next year’s contract, etc.. We also hope to meet with Mr Jean Claude Guyometre, of the Haitian Education Department who has been instrumental in trying to help move toward government takeover of salaries for the teachers.

Then during the April school break in New York, we are taking a team of six from the Bay Road Presbyterian Church in Queensbury NY. We plan to introduce them to the country, the culture and the Haitian people through a bus trip from Port Au Prince to Jèrèmie, visiting the school, hospital, orphanages and in homes. The team is planning to bring school T-shirts for all the students with the school logo, and also will be bringing team shirts for the soccer teams. While at the school, we will also give out the bibles to the children finishing third grade and watch an intramural soccer (futbòl) match.

On Tuesday Feb 10, we met with a Girl Scout troop at the Ballard Road School in Wilton, NY. We shared a Power Point presentation about life in Haiti and the school at Labastille. Following the presentation, the girls had many excellent questions. One questioned about the earthquake. We realized that in 2010, they had all been too young to watch the news or to know about the earthquake. Time flies.... The troop is helping with soccer team T-shirts for the group trip. We really enjoy having an opportunity to share about Haiti with others, and encourage you to invite us to share the story with your church or any other group of which you are a part.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM SESSION

Dear Caldwell Family,

Each month the elders whom you have elected to shepherd our church meet to carry out the responsibilities you have entrusted to them and their committees: providing for worship, nurturing the fellowship and hospitality of our church family, planning and designing curriculum for our children and youth as well as oversight of the Preschool, extending our love and compassion in mission and outreach, and being good stewards of our building, our finances, and our time and talents. As the elders are acting on your behalf, we thought it would be important for you to know what the Session is thinking about and talking about, what actions they are taking, and how you can be involved.

So going forward, we will be sending a brief highlight of the topics discussed at the monthly Session meeting. These will not be minutes, but more just points of interest that are important for us to know in our life together.

Here are the highlights from our February session meeting:

Dave King and Linda Nicols are developing a strategy for Caldwell's outreach to the community including developing a system for our publicity to local media and regular updates to our website so that our communications can be consistent, uniform, and current.

The Session approved and submitted our statistical report. This is basically a "snapshot" of our congregation which is then submitted to the Albany Presbytery.

A discussion of the steeple was done, and we are in the process of getting estimates for the work that needs to be done to it.

The preschool fundraiser was discussed. It is to be a carnival held on June 13th from 1-4.

An Officer Retreat will be planned for a Saturday morning after Easter to include elder and deacon officer training as well as generative time together to think about Caldwell's unique role in the community.

We have made a commitment to Westmount Nursing Home to provide worship periodically, with Palm Sunday and Mother's Day being our first commitments. All are welcome. 2:00-2:30 p.m.

Thank you,

Your Session: Rod Cornelius, Laura Corriveau, Judy Guilford, Jessica King, Carol Longman, Laura Moody, Howard Nicols, Linda Nicols, Dana Power, Church Treasurer Ted Guilford, Clerk of Session Alex Parrott, and Ali Trowbridge, Pastor.

The Seeker

Caldwell Presbyterian Church

71 Montcalm St.

Lake George, NY 12845

All are welcomed into The Caldwell Church Family.

We would love to see you in church on

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10AM!

Contact Information:

Office Number—(518) 668-2613

Secretary Email—secretary@caldwellpres.org

Pastor's Email—ali@caldwellpres.org

Website— www.caldwellpres.org

